THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 'Fire' being a State subject, State Governments had been requested by this Ministry to enact the Fire Force Act on which a model legislation was also circulated. The Ministry of Urban Development, have also circulated a National Biulding Code of India which inter-alia contains measures to be followed on fire safety.

Import of cotton

378. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Cotton Mills Federation has urged Government to import ten lakh bales of cotton in order to reduce the demand-supply gap;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) As per present indications no propose to take to minimise the demand-supply gap of cotton in the market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government do not propose to import cotton at present.

(c) As per present indications no supply-demand gap in cotton exists.

Appointment of a Committee to combat smuggling

379. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Committee to combat smuggling in the country;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Committee will be set up; and

(c) the manner in which it will function to combat smuggling activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to setting up of a Central Committee of Senior Officers of agencies concerned with anti-smuggling work as directed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the Conference of Collectors of Customs on Anti-smuggling work which was convened at Delhi on 17th September, 1987. The Committee consisting of senior officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Coast Guard, the Border Security Force and the Department of Revenue has been constituted under Finance Ministry's orders dated 21st October, 1987. It would enable the agencies concerned to exchange information and to take co-ordinated action so that the total anti-smuggling effort is strengthened.

Release of raw jute by JCI

380. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) has decided to release raw jute stock;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that this will result in a crash in the market price of raw jute?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Statement is attached. (*See* below)

(c) No, Sir.